



NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Together We Make The Difference

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November 30, 2012

Ms. Susan Hedman
Regional Administrator
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson
Chicago, IL

Dear Ms. Hedman:

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) has been approached by the People in Need of Environmental Safety (PINES), a community group in the Town of Pines, Indiana which formed in response to superfund site EPA ID# INN000508071. The PINES group has concerns about potential radiation issues in the town related to use of fly ash as a building substrate throughout the community.

We are aware that Region 5 received a document entitled "Gamma Count Rate Survey in Pines, Indiana" from the PINES group in late 2009. We are also aware that superfund program staff reviewed the document, met and discussed the document with PINES leadership, reviewed additional documents and data, and provided a detailed response to PINES in early 2012. We are further aware that the technical analysis of this submitted document resulted in a determination by EPA that the document was technically and conceptually flawed and that neither the submitted document nor other data obtained during the superfund site Remedial Investigation Report merited further investigation of potential risk associated with radiological contamination. Nonetheless, the members of the PINES group as well as the Pines Town Council continue to be concerned about this issue and feel that their concerns are not being adequately addressed. NIRPC respectfully requests that EPA reconsider conducting additional investigation related to the Town of Pines.

We have reviewed information on EPA's website on the topic of radiation and fly ash and relative risk. However, NIRPC does not have the expertise to assess the health risks associated with environmental exposure to fly ash in the Town of Pines. In the event that EPA decides that no additional analysis in the Town of Pines can be provided, we would be interested in an opportunity to work with EPA to coordinate a future workshop or seminar on the topic of relative radiological risk in our region. Such a workshop would enable members of PINES, as well as other concerned stakeholder groups in Northwest Indiana to have a better understanding of this topic.

Sincerely,

John Swanson
Executive Director